

**UN PATRIOTIC
UN AMERICAN****Friends of the San Francisco Estuary
Board of Directors Meeting**

Friday, April 30, 1999 - 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA

Meeting Summary**1. Introductions/Approval of January 29, 1999 Meeting Summary**

Ted Smith, President, called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. The January 29, 1999 Meeting Summary was approved as amended. The correction to the October 30, 1998 Meeting Summary should read, "Batts reported that federal and state reports are due and he has contacted an accountant to prepare them."

2. Friends 1997-1998 Annual Report

The Annual Report was approved with the following changes:

- 1) The cover should state that the report is for fiscal year 1997-1998
- 2) Page 1: the CCMP was developed in 1993 not 1986
- 3) Page 2: add context to the information provided on the lower left page
- 4) Page 3: correct typo, "involved." Run Spellcheck for other possible typos
- 5) Underlining: Janet Cox requested that underlined headings be changed to bold or a different font. She offered to help with the changes
- 6) Cover: Will Travis, BCDC, suggested the next report (98-99) have a new cover design.

Mario Menesini said Central San might be willing to print the report. It was also suggested that Friends ask Michael Carlin whether the San Francisco PUC would provide free printing.

3. Criteria for Annual Disbursement of Friends' Available Funds (small grants)

Discussion was postponed because Triah Mulvey, Barbara Salzman and Chuck Batts were not able to meet to develop criteria.

4. Recommendations to the Implementation Committee (IC for the May 7, Meeting)

There were no recommendations because some Board members did not receive the IC agenda in time for review. Mario Menesini suggested Friends' Education Program do a presentation at an upcoming IC meeting.

5. CALFED Activities

Mary Selkirk reported that the revised draft EIR will be released June 25 with the final document due by the end of the year, and a final Record of Decision by June 2000. She said the significant parts of the EIR will remain the same, but revisions were made to the Phase II Report to provide an integrated approach to water needs. CALFED is looking at whole water systems to provide more water for species and is developing an Environmental Water Account. A technical approach is being used to help determine which species need what amounts of water at what times of the year. Resource managers and hydrologists are trying to determine whether the system can be operated with real time monitoring to respond immediately if fish need more water.

SIMILAR TO

SOVIET UNION'S

Friends members discussed CALFED's direction and effectiveness. Many questions and concerns were raised about the 12-15 agencies' commitment to solving the problems and if CALFED is developing another "Five-Year Plan" similar to the Soviet Union's attempt at problem solving. Selkirk responded that the state's bureaucracy is massive and that there may not be any radical changes. She suggested that Board members look particularly at how the program is described in the Phase II Report. Stakeholders can provide input over the next two months. Selkirk said "cross-cut budgeting" is needed in which the state and federal governments provide joint funding to implement measures.

In response to questions, Selkirk said modeling for the Environmental Water Account will not be available until after the Report comes out and technical support for the recommendations will not be available in the Report. She was asked why there was such a short technical section compared to other sections and suggested people check the Appendix and ask for what they want. Members also expressed concern about who would oversee the whole implementation process. There needs to be some other entity in charge - those currently in charge do not see a problem or need for change.

Bob Raab in his report to the Board was less optimistic about the program and believes things are business as usual. He voiced concerns about San Francisco Bay being left out of the program and the potential for construction of new dams and reservoirs. He said real progress will be made when species come off the endangered species list. He also commented on the huge bureaucracy and lack of strong leadership. He questioned who will enforce the Environmental Restoration Program. He said there is not enough conservation, and it is not enforced. There is no financial plan in place to know where the money will come from. The CCMP may be the only plan in the future.

Selkirk cited some of the problems that she sees: 1) inertia on the part of agencies and governance, in general; 2) lack of state and federal leadership; and 3) courts ruling to overturn CVPIA's 800,000 Af water allocation. She also said a driving force in California's water policy will be drinking water and environmentalists could play an important role by getting elected to urban water district boards.

CONSPIRACY

Ted Smith asked what Friends could do. Selkirk responded that Friends could take a major role responding to the Record of Decision by writing letters and commenting at public meetings. Bill Tuohy suggested Friends sponsor a workshop on governance. Bob Raab agreed that Friends should focus on governance and said a strong, independent oversight agency is needed to enforce ecosystem restoration.

A State of the Bay conference, with local legislators, was suggested to bring more attention to the Bay. Other suggestions included a letter writing campaign questioning funding and the Bay's role in the Bay/Delta program, giving more attention to the issue in the Annual Report, and devoting more time to policy issues at the State of the Estuary Conference.

6. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee: The financial report was presented. Friends has not had a true budget, and it is unclear what funds are restricted, are discretionary, or need to be set aside for expenses. Friends' new accountant reported that there is approximately \$76,000 in

unrestricted funds. Friends has never had such a large sum of uncommitted funds, and is in a new position to consider options for its use.

Two proposals have been submitted to CALFED: 1) \$100,000 over two years for expanding *Estuary* newsletter to include the Delta watershed; and 2) \$44,000 for developing a narrative species report to supplement the Habitat goals Report. Both proposal help implement the CCMP. If accepted, Friends would serve as fiscal agent. A motion was made and passed to accept the Finance Report.

- B. **Education Committee:** Mario Menesini commended Steve Cochrane for his outstanding efforts with the education program. He thought the Education Committee should be even more active in helping to implement the CCMP.

Steve Cochrane announced that a \$400 anonymous donation had been received from the East Bay Community Foundation for the Creek Keepers. The Creek Keeper poster was presented at the Contra Costa County Watershed Symposium on Creek Restoration. He and Carol Thornton recently attended the Urban Creeks Conference. Cochrane spoke on volunteer monitoring at the Communities Working for Wetlands conference for the Isaak Walton League and described their Handbook for Wetlands Conservation. He reported he had submitted five new proposals: 1) City of San Leandro; 2) US EPA for water quality monitoring; 3) Golden Gate Audubon; 4) Port of Oakland for wetlands restoration; and 5) Contra Costa County Education Program for funding Richmond High School students.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. San Francisco Estuary Project and Friends Activities

- A. **State of the Estuary Conference:** Joan Patton reported that nearly 800 people attended the conference. The speakers were exceptional, and the topic of rehabilitation was well presented. Most participants gave the conference a rating of excellent. The conference was covered by two television stations, three radio stations and four major newspapers, including two front page articles. Friends gave nine awards for outstanding CCMP implementation projects. Friends was able to offer seventeen full or partial scholarships for its \$1200 donation. The conference will be summarized in the State of the Estuary Report due to be published this summer. Information will also be available on the Internet.
- B. **Mitten Crab Conference:** Patton reported that a Mitten Crab Workshop was held in Sacramento on March 23 sponsored by four organizations including SFEP and attended by about 100 people. The conference focused on the history and impacts of the mitten crab invasion in this Estuary and European water bodies. The Mitten Crab has significantly affected fish salvage operations at Delta pumping facilities and hampered shrimp harvesting in the South Bay. Future management options were discussed including the controversial option to harvest the crab for human consumption.
- C. **JARPA:** Carol Thornton reported on the Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) project's progress to develop a single application for a variety of permit activities. There would be no change in fees. The JARPA process will be presented at a meeting in San

Mateo on May 20. The Gazos Creek project in San Mateo County has been selected as a potential pilot project site to test the new application. She also commented that Cal Fish and Game has just revised their 1601 permit and JARPA's public outreach strategy will include this information.

D. US EPA Biennial Review of SFEP: Marcia Brockbank passed around a large binder containing SFEP products and summaries of activities. The binder represents a significant staff effort to demonstrate the scope of SFEP programs over the past two years to implement the CCMP. The biennial review is used by EPA to justify its continued funding of SFEP.

E. Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP): Marcia Brockbank reported on the ANEP/EPA Technology Transfer Workshop that was held in March in Washington D.C. NEPs presented information on innovative solutions to a variety of problems that are common to many of the NEPs. ANEP's Citizen Network continues to educate Congress about the value of the NEP and its need for increased funding/resources.

F. Erosion Control Education Program: Carol reported that SFEP/Friends and SF Bay RWQCB assisted the Central Valley RWQCB in organizing Erosion Control workshops in Sacramento on April 15-16. The workshops were a first of their kind, very successful and much appreciated by the developers and local government in attendance.

9. San Francisco Estuary Institute
There was no report.

10. Announcements/Next Meeting/Adjourn

Jim Pachel, Vice President, is moving to Sacramento and has resigned from the Board. The topic of nominations will be on the next Board meeting agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for July 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.